The Orthodox Herald

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SUCH HAPPY TIMES

Margaret Pysarchyk

They've been referred to as good family fun and fondly remembered for being such happy times. What am I speaking of? Ask any of our parishioners who grew up during the Depression and they'll tell you – church picnics. During the 1920s, '30s, and '40s, summer picnics were the social event for many parishes.

When I was growing up picnics had become somewhat passé, but I still enjoyed listening to my mother and aunt as they recalled those days. Even as a child, I sensed that that was a very happy time in the life of our parish community.

In an earlier article, I related how picnics were held every other Sunday following payday. This proved to be a very good fund-raiser for the church. The men of the parish often carried the wooden dance platform several blocks to a wooded area. On any given Sunday, "the woods" might hold three or more picnics with Russian, Ukrainian, and Serbian music filling the air. Starting in the early afternoon and ending at dark, the event was very well attended, as almost everyone in the parish was present.

One of our parishioners shares her vivid recollection of those days:

"As a youngster, I remember going to picnics with my dad. Everyone was having such a good time and they seemed to be so close. The older people talked of the villages they came from and how things were when they left home. There was singing and dancing with the kids dancing or pretending to dance in between the grown-ups."

And dance they did! One woman now laughingly recalls that "...we danced so much our feet hurt!"

There were always delicious refreshments available. The children looked forward to the soda pop and other goodies. It's often been noted that our picnics were very family-oriented; there was never any rowdiness.

As dusk approached, the parish choir was called to the platform to round out the

(Continued on Page 33, Col. 1)

PROTECTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD OCTOBER 1/14

Protected by your coming, O Mother of God, the faithful people solemnly celebrate today. Gazing upon your pure ikon, they humbly say: "Watch over us with your noble protection and deliver us from all evil by asking your Son, Christ our God to save our souls."

WHAT'S HER NAME?

The TV court programs have made many aware that cases can be heard in only certain courts. They all have special jurisdiction. This makes it easier for us to understand the trials in which Christ was tried. First Jesus was brought before Pilate, who was the Roman governor of Judea. Early in the proceedings, on hearing Christ identified as a Galilean, Pilate closed the proceedings and sent Christ to Herod. Herod was of a Jewish royal family who was under the jurisdiction of the Roman government because it was from them that he received his appointment as tetrarch (a governor of a fourth of the province) of Galilee and was in Jerusalem at the time. Pilate did this partly to get rid of the case and partly as a good will gesture, as he had recently quarreled with Herod.

However, Herod soon sent Jesus back to Pilate. He knew that it was the custom at the Passover to choose a prisoner to set free. Since Pilate saw that Jesus was not the dangerous character He was accused of being but was brought up on charges because He was popular with the multitudes, Pilate was sure that He would be the one released. There was talk that Barabas, another of the prisoners, would be the one freed.

It was time for sentencing. Pilate's wife came to him while he was sitting at the bench (Matthew 27:19) and she begged him to have nothing to do with the case because she had had nightmares about Him. It is probable that she had heard of Jesus and believed Him to be a holy and

(Continued on Page 33, Col. 1)

WHICH DAYS

One of the situations which multi-ethnic parishes face is which Holy Days to commemorate. For example, the Protection of the Mother of God on October 1/14 is only found on the Church calendar in those parishes which use the "Russian" Synaxarion. Although the incident it commemorates took place in Constantinople, it is not included in the Greek Synaxarion.

In the Russian Churches this is one of the favorite Holy Days. Many churches and cathedrals, including that of the OCA, are dedicated to the Protection (Pokrov, Aghia Skepi) of the Mother of God.

The Mother of God appeared several times after she left this earth. One of these times occurred in the 10th century in the Blachernae Church in Constantinople, in which were preserved her robe, veil and part of her belt. During the Vigil at 4 a.m., the Saints Andrew and Epiphanios saw a majestic woman walking toward the ambo (the area before the altar). She was not alone. St. John the Baptist, St. John the Theologian, and other saints and choirs of angels were escorting her. On reaching the center of the church, the Mother of God knelt down and prayed for a long time. She prayed so fervently that her face was bathed in tears. Then, she stood up and went before the altar table, where she again prayed. Then she removed the veil over her head. It shone like lightning. She held it high, stretched over her arms, in a gesture of prayer of intercession for those present in the church and on us.

As a result, this commemoration on October 1/14 was instituted to remind us both of this event and of the Mother of God's constant protection, whenever we prayerfully seek that protection, that shelter, in distress.

* * * * * *

It is hard to convince your child the work of the church is really important when you are not taking an active part in the work of the church.

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News CHRONOLOGY

OCTOBER 1999

DIED: Father Raphael Penzenik (retired), Pembroke Pines, FL.
Father Deacon Joseph Margitich, Scranton, PA

THE 1999 SOUTHERN MISSIONS CONFERENCE will be held in Atlanta, GA from November 12-14. Call Larisa Williams, 404-943-1204 for info.

METROPOLITAN DEMETRIOS of Vresthena (71) was enthroned as the Archbishop by Archbishop Iakovos, who was head of the Greek Archdiocese for many years. The ceremony took place on September 18. Archbishop Demetrios replaces Archbishop Spyridon.

INTERESTED? Tentative plans are being made for a trip to Galicia, Slovakia, and Uzhorod in September 2000. It is early for commitment; but, if at all interested, write us and tell us which area you are especially interested. Don't delay.

AN ORTHODOX ACADEMY AND Education, Cultural, Social, and Information Centre has been organized in Michailovce, Slovakia. Those over 18 who are interested in working for the Orthodox Church may become members. The next meeting will be in January 2000. For info, write: Orthodox Academy, PO Box 3, Mihailovce 07101, Slovakia or call 421-905-218856.

OCA PARISHES collected over $50,000 to send Christmas packets to children in Albania, Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.

THE LATTER DAY SAINTS send two members of good standing to visit every household in their flock twice monthly. Before 1945 this was also the practice in Orthodox parishes.

SICKNESS OR SIN is a book containing lectures given by members of the Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology, and Religion. It can be ordered from OCAMPR, PO Box 958, Cambridge, MA 02238. Enclose $18.

THE DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST will soon have a new Center. Located at 927-933 North LaSalle, across the street from the Moody Bible Institute. The property was donated and consists of a large Victorian mansion and an adjacent church building.

HIGH TECH has reached the programs for youth. Young people who attend St. Tikhon's Camp this summer made good friends and now that camp is over they keep in touch by email. Sure beats the old days when letters had to be written!

MATRONA has been recognized as a saint at a service attended by thousands at the Pokrovsky Convent in Moscow on May 2. St. Matrona was blind and paralyzed since childhood, but she helped the blind to see and the lame to walk. Documented miracles show these occurred during her lifetime as well as after her death.

THE PHILOPTOCHOS group in Bridgeport, CT has revived the service of cooking and serving the meal after a funeral or memorial service. Hopefully, other church groups will again start furnishing this convenience.

THE DIRECTORY OF ORTHODOX PARISHES IN GERMANY shows that there are 1.2 million Orthodox in Germany making it the third largest Christian Church. There are 300 parishes divided between 8 different dioceses and 6 Patriarchates.

ON SS. PETER AND PAUL DAY, June 29, Patriarch Bartholomew and Patriarch Ignatius of Antioch opened the festivities of the Millennium at SS. Peter and Paul Church in Antioch – where those who believed in Christ were first called Christians.

A PAN-ORTHODOX CONFERENCE, addressing spiritual and social issues of interest to Orthodox women, will be held in Milwaukee, WI on Saturday, Oct. 23. Call Cathleen Callen for info 414-442-1786.

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IS AGAIN IN SEIGE. This time it is in Chechnya and Ingushetia where 8 Orthodox priests, plus many people involved in the Church, have been kidnapped or murdered.

CITY OF THE SUN is built on a hilltop in Krasnoyarsk in Siberia. It is the center of a cult whose leader is Vissarion – alias Sergei Torop, who has convinced thousands that he is Jesus Christ.

OVER 100 CHAPELS HAVE BEEN BUILT on military bases in Russia during the last few years. These are financed by companies and individuals. Russia does not have a military chaplaincy. Services at the chapels are provided by local priests who are contacted by the commanders.

VISITING TULA Patriarch Alexey declined to visit a museum honoring Leo Tolstoy. A spokesman said: "The Patriarch has never changed his position on the ideas of Tolstoy, which are incompatible with the dogma of the Orthodox Church."

THE GREEK ARCHDIOCESE gave International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) $8,500 for humanitarian relief in Yugoslavia.

THE MILLENNIUM observation will be held on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 19 at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Cathedral in New York. The decision was made by all SCOBA members.

ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE in Ligonier, PA will be the site for two Pan-Orthodox Conferences, the Pan-Orthodox Youth Workers Conference from Nov. 19-21 and the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) for college and young adults from December 18-22. Call 212-570-3560 for info.

ICONS ARE STOLEN from churches in Russia at an alarming rate. Usually custom agents catch the thieves trying to take them out of the country. So far this year almost $70,000 worth of icons have been returned to the church.

•Such Happy Times

evening's entertainment. Thoughts turned to their homes and families in Galicia as the old folk songs were sung.

There were no lights, so as darkness fell, the picnic came to an end. People walked home tired but happy and, no doubt, looking forward to the next picnic.

As I've listened to their stories, I've been impressed with the vivid and rich memories of our parishioners. Their childhood recollections of church picnics represent a simpler and happier time.

•What's her name?

harmless man.

We know the rest of the story. Pilate paid no attention to the advice of his wife, and Jesus was crucified.

Who was this wife? What became of her?

The name of Pilate's wife is St. Procula Claudia. She is commemorated on October 27. She became a disciple of Christ and was baptized. She suffered greatly for the name of Christ.

TWO SISTERS

St. Paul was born in Tarsus, a town near



northern Syria. Among his relatives were two sisters, Zenais and Philonilla. They were highly educated women, studying in the famous school in their town. They were especially interested in medicine, philosophy, and medical science. Curious they asked their cousin to tell them about Christ.

After they were baptized, they left everything behind and left for Demetrias in the area of Thessaly in Greece. Quite a trip in those days but made lighter by their zeal of faith. They found a cave in a mountain of the Pelion range which suited their needs. There were several to choose from as this was an area full of caves where people lived or came for the warm baths. Their intention seemed to be to start a nunnery and to practice medicine for free. In their cave-clinic they cured with the science of medicine and by the Grace of God.

Besides their medical practice they taught the word of the Gospel, converting many people to the true faith and giving them hope. Both of them had different strengths. Zanais had a special gift for healing infants and patients suffering from depression and women's diseases. She was a scholar and a woman of letters, pious and filled with apostolic zeal. Her sister, Philonilla, also worked hard in their medical and spiritual mission, living a life of fasting, prayer and spiritual vigilance.

These two sisters, who lived in the first century, were stoned to death on October 11/24 by a gang of unbelievers who were angered about their teaching about Christ.



THE BABAS TAUGHT ME...

It has been lonely driving to church the last few months. Baba went to spend a little time with her children in a distant city. I especially missed learning so much from her. She always had something to point out to me. This was her first Sunday back. We were later than usual leaving the church because so many people welcomed Baba back.

On the drive home, I asked her how she enjoyed her time away. She started to tell me about her stay. Sometime before we arrived home, she said: "You know they don't have pews in the churches I have been going to the last few months." I asked her whether she detected any difference in the attitude of the worshippers. She said: "You know, when I was growing up we didn't have any pews in our church. But there was order: men stood on one side, women on the other, and children in the front. We stood quietly, paying attention to what was going on. I was surprised and shocked to find how things have changed. Children run around, sit on the floor and on the steps in front of the ikonastas staring at the congregation. At what age do these parents tell the children to behave? Some people think this is cute, I find it distracts others from prayer. And even worse, if this is possible, is the crying of the babies. Can't the mothers take them out? It is not fair to the priest or to others."

Too soon, I had to leave Baba off at her house. She told me she had many more things to tell me. It was good to have her back complete with hat, umbrella and purse.

ORIGINAL SIN

In many of our church services and private prayers we recite Psalm 51. We ponder many of the verses, especially verse 5: "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity and in sin my mother conceived me."

The Orthodox believe that although Adam and Eve sinned, and we are all of their descendants, we do not bear the **guilt** of this sin. In other words, there is no "genetic transmission." Upon being born, we enter a world which is already sinful. All of nature and the entire cosmos is under sin. Therefore, by being born into a sinful world, we too are sinful. Thus, we have Adam and Eve's "original sin," but not their own personal guilt.

The Holy Sacrament of Baptism in the Orthodox Church has another name; it is also called illumination. During the receiving of the sacrament we "take off the old man" – Adam, and are illuminated by the New Adam – Christ.

We are perhaps more familiar with the Roman Catholic doctrine of Original Sin. It teaches that after the fall from grace of both Adam and Eve, their sin (original sin) is inherited by all who are born in this world. Since they are our first parents, a "genetic transmission" occurs in all humanity. Therefore, in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism one must be cleansed of this sin in order to become part of Christ's fold – the Church.

GET THE FULL BENEFIT

Every Divine Liturgy we hear the Beatitudes sung. Some of the compositions are so beautiful our prayers spontaneously soar. Through the centuries, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount recorded in Matthew 5 and Luke 6 has been a source of consolation and hope for all people. In it Christ assures us that God will not neglect our spiritual and psychological needs. No matter how deep our suffering, our prayers for healing will be answered.

Jesus' sermon contains more than just a promise, it provides a model for spiritual growth and transformation. It offers a program for healing with principles to follow for effecting a positive change in the future.

If we just skim over the sermon, we might miss these principles. Jesus' words are paradoxical in places. Sometimes His advice seems impractical, and even impossible to carry out.

However, as we explore the depth and mystery of the sermon, we find an unsurpassed wisdom in these words. We also discover a set of rules that are valid for all situations in every age.

As the months go by we will look closely at each Beatitude in turn.

WINTER'S GRACE

How soon we take living for granted.

We breathe in the air of life day after day ... and we come to expect it. We count on the hours of sleeping and working, of eating and drinking and laughing, of savoring goodness and gladness of being alive.

And the miracle of life becomes commonplace.

Then, we get a reminder. A serious illness or a visit to a sick friend or reading the name of an acquaintance in the obituary column, then we are caught up in fresh realization of the fine line between life and death. We sense once again the joy of life and good health, the beauty of loving and being loved, of good talk and good companions, of music and color and feeling. We rediscover the crimson face of a rose.

Life is a gift not to be valued lightly, for it is a gift of God. He sustains the life we live this very minute. He watches over the future.

Live life!



ETHNIC CHUCKLE

By popular demand, I am including another letter from Hanya to her aunt in the "old country." I write these letters but I get ideas from my many helpful friends. Matushka N. Stroyen.

Dorohaya Tyota Maria,

Ya lucky zhe ya yestyeh in one piece. Ya mala velike scare. Lem tak peshlo. Moy starye fryear mene poklickal na telephonyu ot Floridee e me povel zhe prydeh da mene na visit. Ya bulla taka excited. Ya hotchila pleasovati moho old fryeara. Ohn bull moy Mr. Wonderful!

Ya peshla next door zvedala moyu next door neighbor, shto yah gotta do. Ona me povila zhe "the way to a man's heart is through his stomach."

Ya dumam e dumam shto ya mozhu yemu cookovati. E ya dostala a little worried yak ya mozhu povisti momu cheloviku za staraho boyfrienda. Ya neznala shto yah gotta do. Aha ya dostola idea, ya budu watchowate soap opera na TV tam ohni mayut taki situations. Mozhe ohni dadut mene idea.

Ya dostala idea. Ya calling my ole fryeara nay pridda do mene Thursday evening kolye moy husband going na bowling.

Thursday morning, ya pishla da butchera, kupila boiling chicken. Then, ya skoro pishla da beauty parlor dostate novi hair do. Yah hurry domu, s'robilla chicken soup. Then ya remember shto moy fryear lubi homemade noodles. Ya got busy e rollovala noodlzee.

At two o'clock ya turnovala TV on to watch "As the World Turns." Ya tak chasko watchovala shitki troubles zhe ya bulla frightened koli ya chula caru u garagyu. Ya dumam zhe ya scrazuyu! Moy husband preshol domu early! Ohn me scazal zhe ohn maye had backache e ne poyde na bowling! At same time ohn smelluye chicken soup e ohn me kazhe zhe ohn take happy zhe ya make chicken soup z wide homemade noodles dlah yeho.

Ya taka scared. Ya neznala shto ya gotta do. Ya thinkuyu fast. Ya povila chelovikyu go get a hot bath. Then poyte do bedrooma po restovatisya. Yak ohn running the water ya poklikala fryeara e povela yemu zhe shitko pomishano u mene e ne preyte neska ali please call again.

Ya poshla da kitchen, filluyu veliki soup bowl a polivku e dumam better starye husband chem starye fryear.

Budte zdrove,
Happy but wondering Hanya.

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ALASKA AND MISSION – Mary Petrochuk, John Russian, Ann Worobey, **Jerry Russin,** Marian Barber, Ethel Watlock.
ALASKA FUND – Peter and Dorothy Petronka, Dorothy Burochonock, **R. H. Roth.**
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* * * * * *

No Garbage Disposal

In describing one of the new movies, a critic wrote: The plot moves rapidly down the sewer." It would not be so damaging to those who watch such trash if the mind could be equipped, like the kitchen sink, with a garbage disposal. Then you could flush away the filth and be done with it, but the mind does not work that way. It stores up impressions for a lifetime only to the best. The only way to protect it is to expose it.

Dabs of Thoughts

There are times when my soul yearns to thank God for His goodness and I have no words for it. There are times when the beauty and wonder of God's goodness so fill my heart that I long to praise Him.

Although the more Orthodox prefer to make their traditionalist arguments on theological and historical grounds, they are concerned that the church not drift from its primary mission, that it keep its focus not as a social-service agency but as a repository of faith and eternal truth.

Our later years can offer opportunities for even-level living: a pleasant time when there are fewer critical challenges to be faced. Aging is a normal life process, not a disaster.

St. John Chrysostom, who was Archbishop of Constantinople in the 4th century, was one of the greatest preachers of all times. Over 700 of his sermons have been preserved.

Perhaps, the making and selling of perohi should be taught at the seminary, since so many parishes are involved in this fundraiser.

O God, You have taught me from my youth and to this day I declare Your wondrous works. Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me until I declare Your strength to this generation and Your power to everyone who is to come. Psalm 71:15-18

A 12th century stained glass window in Chartres Cathedral in France depicts the Mother of God with Christ on her lap. It is an icon in glass.

Col 3:16: "Let the word of Christ dwell in your richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in praise and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

The sure cure for loneliness, the quickest way to happiness is found in this, a simple creed, GO serve someone in greater need.

There is no conflict between science and religion, two truths cannot conflict. Science teaches us how to get what we want. Religion teaches us what we ought to want. They are two separate fields.

(Jean S. Milner)



EDITORS' NOTES

Golden October in Northeast Pennsylvania is so full of beauty. Walking down the path it feels like one is entering a painting. We don't approach the October sun with any dreams of a suntan. This is a sun to be enjoyed with the eyes, not the skin. The clear days are charged with a filtered, silvery sort of light that clarifies the view of nature, both close and distant. The changing colors of the foliage, the golden stalks of the field grasses, the chilly dews of morning, are etched needle sharp by the delicate sunlight. Morning fogs are iridescent with it when I take my walk, and afternoon hazes deepen from pearl to gold as the distant orb makes its way down. We may have to wear a sweater, but the October sun is gentle and we turn our face towards it. Enjoying it as we know that this rare beauty will soon be gone.

Many Bible Study groups are starting to meet this month. Unless the class is structured to compare the text from various versions of the Bible, it is suggested before starting the class that all participants have the same version of the Bible.

The Internet is full of items concerning the situation in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and Archbishop Spiridon. This has led us to examine the question of "people select their clergy in the Orthodox Church" by the shouting of Axios or Anaxios during the Sacrament of Ordination and then the assignment of clergy to their various posts. Are the various jurisdictions straying too far from this ancient tradition?

We are beginning to see the signs of a church reckoning with the results of "economia." The exception to a rule which could be used in unusual cases which took into account human nature. Unfortunately, "economia" has become the norm. Every day we receive letters, news clippings and phone calls from readers indicating a desire to return to the church's heritage.

Baba is back from a vacation and she wants to assure all who care that she wears her hat only on very special occasions. You will usually see her in her babushka. She always wears a head covering because "all married women did."

How about slacks, Baba?

On this light note we close reminding you that individuals can order a packet of at least 10 copies, at very low cost, to distribute to whomever they wish or to have them distributed in church or at some meeting.

God Be With You

The Stroyens

PRESS FUND

Spasebo/Thank you. Thanks to your support we have been able to reach new people with our message and still pay our bills. Ethel Watlock, Anna Tovcimak, **Anna Pehota,** John Russian, Frank Moroz, Irene Allen, John Super, Jerry Russin, Marian Barber, R.H. Roth, Stephen Shufran, Anita Anderson, Anonymous, Johanna Wagner, Sophia Greene, Anne Dorozynski, Paul Laskovich, Mary Kochmaruk, **Ann Worobey. Steve and Lenora Evancho** love and prayers for health for Claudia Sulin, Anna Plefka, Fr. and Matushka Stroyen. Irene and Adolf for health of John Patnychuk. Father and Matushka Stroyen in memory of **Fr. John Zeleniak, Verna Kovach.** Steve and Lenora Evancho in memory of Boris Mayher, Paul Gall, Joseph Repasky. Harry and Rose Kulick in memory of their parents John and Eva Kulick and George and Mary Karoby. Vigil light and prayers of well wishes to Sasha and Laura.

ONE LINE PRAYERS

We are taught to pray without ceasing. This list and previous ones listing one line prayers under several categories should help you to get started or keep going.

Upon rising in the morning:

Lord, there is nothing that is going to happen to me today, that both You and I can't handle together.

Lord, I believe in You. I hope in You. I love you.

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Lord, help me to greet this coming day in peace.

During the work day:

O God, bless my comings and goings, my deeds and works, my words and desires.

Bless my association with all my co-workers.

Lord, teach me to treat whatever may happen to me today with peace of soul and humility in thought.



Are you tired of pizza but want to make something tasty that doesn't take too long? Why not try this speedy recipe for Cabbage Pagach?

Cabbage Pagach (Bread)

1/2 cup oleo or butter
4 cups chopped cabbage
2 cups chopped onion
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
2 - 10 oz. cans flaky biscuits

Place 1 can of biscuits in a greased 9x12 pan. If you wish, you may roll out the biscuits until they touch, making a solid bottom. Brush with melted butter and set aside. Saute cabbage and onions in butter. Add salt, pepper and dash of sugar, if desired. Simmer for about 15 minutes, stirring often, until soft. Spread over biscuits. Top with 2nd can of biscuits. Brush top with melted butter. Bake 375° about 15 or 20 minutes.

Through Your grace, help me not to embitter or embarrass others today.
Love is patient and kind.

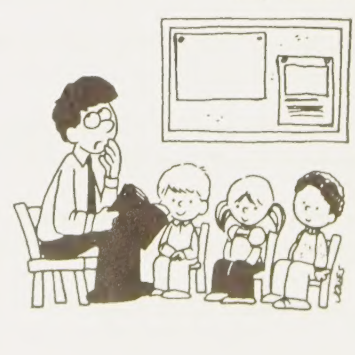
Upon retiring for the evening:

Into Your Hands I commit my spirit. Have mercy on me, O Lord. Amen.

Humility:

You are the potter, I am the clay. Mold me, shape me. Do with me as You will. I am Your servant.
Teach me to do Your will for You are my God.

Ray Mastroberte



"WELL, YES . . . I GUESS YOU COULD SAY JONAH TOOK THE FIRST SUBMARINE RIDE."

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

Fr. W. Basil Stroyen, Ph.D., Editor

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"Do not fear the conflict, do not flee it.
Where there is no struggle, there is no virtue;
where faith and love are not tempted,
it is not possible to be sure whether they are really present.
They are proved and revealed
in adversity, in difficult and grievous circumstances."

Father John of Kronstadt



OCTOBER 1999

1 Heb 9:1-7	**17 Gal 1:11-19**
2 2 Cor 9:6-11	18 Col 4:5-9, 14-18
3 Phil 1:1-7	19 Col 1:1-2, 7-11
4 1 Cor 15:39-45	20 Col 1:18-23
5 Phil 1:8-14	21 Col 1:24-29
6 Phil 1:12-20	22 Col 2:1-7
7 Phil 1:20-27	23 2 Cor 3:12-18
8 Phil 1:27-2:4	**24 Gal 2:16-20**
9 1 Cor 15:58-16:3	25 Col 2:13-20
10 2 Cor 11:31-12:9	26 2 Tim 2:1-10
11 Phil 2:12-16	27 Col 3:17-4:1
12 Phil 2:17-23	28 Col 4:2-9
13 Phil 2:24-30	29 Col 4:10-18
14 Phil 3:1-8	30 2 Cor 5:1-10
15 Phil 3:8-18	**31 Gal 6:11-18**
16 2 Cor 1:8-	

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As St. Pa 3rd letter to the Philippians, ind that they are still at a stage of spiritual development in which they must rely upon imitating their betters, and that there is danger that they will select the wrong people as their pattern of Christian behavior. They are to imitate St. Paul rather than those others, because he is a faithful, admittedly imperfect, imitator of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Some trouble-makers of the Church at Philippi are criticized by St. Paul in his Epistle. They are called enemies of the cross of Christ because there is nothing of the spirit of the cross in their lifestyle, which is shown by the spirit of self-denying love for God and the brethren. We can only guess who these enemies were, but it is clear that he is talking about sanctified indulgence: a religion of pleasing themselves with the bland assumption that God was pleased to have it so. St. Paul knew that the worst enemy of Christ is the Christian who professes Christ with his lips, who gratefully claims that he is saved by Christ's crucifixion on the cross, but who lives without a cross of his own.

On the other hand, if the Philippians have been duped by such people, the first step for them to take is to get to imitate St. Paul rather than the false teachers. This will enable them to turn from the self-indulgent lifestyle. He reminds his readers that the Christians' citizenship is in heaven. In declaring that their citizenship is in heaven, St. Paul emphasizes the unshakeable, eternal reality of their heavenly home.

NEW 23RD PSALM

The Internet is my shepherd,
I shall not want,
It makes me lie down in my chair,
It leads me away from the faith,
It destroys my soul,
It leads me in the path of sex and violence.

Yeh, though I walk in the Shadow of Christian responsibilities,
there will be no interruption, for the Internet is with me.
Its mouse and screen, they comfort me.
It prepares pages for me in the presence of my worldliness.
It anoints my head with humanism and chatiness.
My interest runneth over.
Surely, laziness and ignorance shall follow me all the days of my life.
And I shall dwell in the house glued to the Internet forever.